

# 5 STAGES

## the JOURNEY of DISABILITY ATTITUDES

### STAGE 1: **IGNORANCE**

Weaknesses and disabilities are a sign that God either does not care or is not able to fix the situation. In fact, they may be a result of sin or a lack of faith. God is not involved in the life of someone with a disability, because He can't use people who are so broken. People who have disabilities have nothing to do with me and God, so I will stay away from them.

#### **MATTHEW 20:30-31**

Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet.

### STAGE 2: **PITY**

I am blessed by God and I can help others. I am grateful that my children are not disabled. People with weaknesses and disabilities obviously need someone like me to help them and give them meaning, due to their troubles.

#### **PSALM 72:13**

For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death.

### STAGE 3: **CARE**

Like me, people with disabilities were created in God's image. By that virtue alone they have value. I hope that someone will take the time to show them God's love, and I will happily support such an effort.

#### **MATTHEW 25:40**

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

### STAGE 4: **FRIENDSHIP**

I have come to know and spend time with a friend who has a disability. This person has value in God's sight, but also in mine, and I know that my life is better for having known this person, and as much as I have helped her, she has also blessed me.

#### **I CORINTHIANS 1:27**

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

### STAGE 5: **CO-LABORERS**

If God has called each of us to serve and praise Him with every fiber of our beings, then He has done the same for our brothers and sisters in Christ with disabilities. Together, we will encourage and equip each other in every good work to respond to God's call on our lives. We can all give and we can all receive.

#### **JOHN 9:3**

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."

**BUILDING AWARENESS** **PROVIDING ACCESS** **INTEGRATING** **ENGAGING**